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Downtown park

Church to create green space downtown.
Page 2.

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Sprucing up

MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Friends of Roselawn Centre secretary Arlene Lessard, from left, board member Carole Black Brisley and membership chair Judith Boroniec clean up the garden at Port Colborne's Roselawn Centre on Saturday morning.

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Port Colborne church to establish parkette

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

A derelict corner with broken down buildings has become a beacon of hope and opportunity for a Port Colborne church.

Members of St. James and St. Brendan Anglican Church decided to buy the vacant property at the corner of King and Charlotte streets tired of seeing it as an eyesore. The broken buildings and chain fence on the property opposite the church motivated the congregation to convert the property into a park.

Rev. Robert Hurkmans said at first the idea seemed "crazy," but he and church members hoped they had to do something. They all felt they needed to create a green space to beautify the downtown core.

"Somebody said we should really do something about that land across the street and after thinking about that for a little while, I think the next thought was, maybe we should do something," Hurkmans said.

Hurkmans said the project isn't about the church, instead it's about the city. The congregation hopes to create a movement to motivate residents and businesses of Port Colborne to join their efforts to beautify the city. Hurkmans said he has noticed businesses downtown renovating their storefronts and the city making an effort to create an eye-catching environment, so the park will add to that.



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

St. James and St. Brendan church members gather in front of property at King and Charlotte streets that they plan to convert into a green space to beautify the city.

Church member Tim Kennedy stressed the point that there aren't many green spaces downtown. He said the creation of a park would make a comfortable atmosphere for people to enjoy the area.

Kennedy and other members said the plan is to make it a "passive green space." This will include benches, trees and grass.

The property now has two derelict buildings. Hurkmans

said at this point they are not exactly sure what is going to happen with the buildings, but they have a few ideas.

"First we really just had a vision for the green space, for the empty lot and we really

decided to wait and see if any apparent uses for the buildings presented themselves," Hurkmans said.

Hurkmans said one of the buildings may have an exciting future, but at this time nothing

“

Somebody said we should really do something about that land across the street and after thinking about that for a little while, I think the next thought was, maybe we should do something

Rev. Robert Hurkmans

has been decided.

The church will need the assistance of the community in creating the park because the project will cost about \$550,000. The price includes the cost of buying the property and redeveloping it.

The church has begun fundraising efforts on the project's website, www.blessedcity.ca.

The congregation is focusing on raising money for the next few months, and won't start work on the project until next spring.

The church has applied for grants, but is also relying on church donations and corporate donations to make the project possible.

IN
BRIEF

NHS in need of volunteers

Niagara Health System is looking for people who are retired or have consistent availability to join its team of volunteers.

The NHS said it's seeking people who have good interpersonal skills and enjoy helping others to volunteer at Niagara Falls and Welland hospitals.

"Our volunteers make a meaningful difference every day in the lives of our patients," said volunteer co-ordinator

Andrea McCollum. "We have a variety of opportunities in patient and non-patient areas where volunteers can do purposeful work that directly has a positive impact on health care in their community."

NHS volunteers make a commitment

to scheduled shifts, which include different combinations of positions to gain a broad range of experience.

For more information, visit niagarahealth.on.ca/en/volunteer-resources, or phone 905-378-4647 ext. 44630.

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Port Colborne's rich history gets spruced up

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Friends of Roselawn Centre got their hands dirty Saturday morning in an effort to preserve the beauty and history of the Port Colborne mansion's gardens.

About a dozen people rolled up their sleeves, put on their gardening gloves and dug deep to plant some new life into the garden at Roselawn Centre. The event was meant to be an opportunity for the community to participate in the cleanup and learn more about the mansion's history. Bowman said only one child attended, and unfortunately one of the preschools that was invited was unable to attend.

Friends of Roselawn plan to hold the event again next year and hope more people will visit the mansion and garden.

"We had art for the one little guy who did show up, he has been painting all kinds of leaves ... and I said 'Great, great, I have lots of plates for you and stuff for you to paint', so he is happy," Bowman said with a laugh.

Bowman plans to invite students from local schools to the event next year.

For Bowman, it's important for youth to participate in preserving the city's history. She said not only do they learn about the Roselawn Centre, they also learn about different types of plants and when certain types of bulbs can be planted.

By getting youths involved



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

From left Friends of Roselawn Centre Arlene Lessard, secretary, Carole Black Brisley, board member, and Judith Bonowiec, membership chair and board member, clean up the garden at the Roselawn Centre on Saturday morning.

in activities at the centre, board member Carole Black Brisley said, it ensures the next generation will take pride in their heritage. She said when they grow up they will see a sense of belonging and ownership when

it comes to their heritage.

"You want it to be a community centre right from the ground up," Black Brisley said.

Arlene Lessard, secretary of Friends of Roselawn Centre, said involving people in the

cleanup is a great way of creating awareness of other events at the centre. Some of the events include a Christmas market on Nov. 13 and art shows.

"This is one of the few that is a publicly owned home, this

dates back to the 1860s ... We want to preserve it along with the gardens because it is a very unique place," Lessard said.

For Bowman, preserving the garden is significant not only because of the rich history, but

also the variety of ornamental trees in the garden. The mansion was built and owned by Lord Cornwall. The home was sold and owned by a number of influential families throughout the years.

The Steele family, who owned the home, wanted to accent the mansion with beautiful gardens and unique features. Bowman said the family established the garden with a winding driveway, fountain and a variety of plants. The Steele family planted about seven types of trees, including silver birch and linden. Bowman said the most famous of the property's trees is a cryptomeria from Japan.

"I tell the kids it looks like a truffler tree from the Lorax. You know, 'I speak for the trees, the trees have no tongue.' So it's the tree we kind of celebrate because it is a unique tree, you can't find that too often in Canada," Bowman said.

Sunday morning members of the Friends of Roselawn Centre came together to cleanup the garden and prepare for next spring. Bowman said they planted about 200 daffodils and a number of red and white tulips. The tulips are being planted specifically for Canada's 150 birthday next year.

Lessard said the Roselawn Centre is always in need of donations and volunteers to keep it running. Anyone interested in donating money or time can visit the city's website for more information at <http://portcolborne.ca/page/upcoming-events>.

More than \$500,000 of damages in plane collision

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Damages to two aircraft that collided last Thursday at the Dorothy Ringeling Airport in Welland could approach \$1 million, according to a federal investigator.

"We are trying to get to the bottom of why exactly that happened," said Peter Rowntree, a senior regional investigator with the Transportation and Safety Board of Canada.

"We have the radio out of one of the aircraft and we are going to have it tested to see if it is working properly and see where we are going from there," Rowntree said.

Rowntree estimated damage to one of the planes,

a Pilatus PC-12, could be between \$500,000 and \$1 million. He said the second plane, an ultralight, is a write-off.

On Oct. 6 two planes collided while taxiing. The pilot of the ultralight plane was taken to hospital with minor injuries. The pilot and four passengers of the second plane were not hurt.

The Transportation Safety Board isn't conducting a full investigation, but are looking into why the crash occurred. Rowntree said once they know what the cause is, investigators will decide if there is need for a more in-depth investigation for safety purposes.

The Dorothy Ringeling Airport is considered an uncontrolled airport, so com-



LAURA BARTON/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Regional Police and Welland Fire and Emergency Services are on scene at the Niagara Central Dorothy Ringeling Airport after a collision between two planes.

munication over the radio is not recorded. Rowntree said they want to be able to check if the landing and take off were communicated via the radio before the crash occurred.

"There is no tower there, they are on a unicom, so basi-

cally everyone should be on the same frequency when they are at the airport. It is their responsibility to know what they are doing and what their intent is."

He said investigators are asking for people who were

listening to the airport frequency at about 2 p.m. Thursday Oct. 6 to come forward with information. Witnesses can call the airport at (905) 714-1000.

Rowntree said it's hard to predict how long the investi-

gation will take.

If one of the pilots is found to be at fault, Rowntree said the Transportation Safety Board does not take disciplinary action. The Transportation Safety Board doesn't determine any civil or criminal liability. Rowntree said they focus on how to better safety procedures and ensure better safety practices in the future.

"It would be up to transport Canada that if they were interested in this occurrence it would be up to them to investigate the circumstances of the accident," Rowntree said about when there could be a police investigation.

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POSTMEDIA

I've been thinking about the 'right mirror'

CORD ABBAHAM
Port Colborne Baptist

In an Aug. 20, *Economist* article "Normalizing Narcissism: Society as seen in Donald Trump," I read, "Even before Donald Trump, appeals to selfishness and grandiosity were poisoning the (political) Right."

Sadly, many church people who would fly the flag of the "political right" can easily view life through this lens of self-interest, instead of through Jesus. That brought me to think back a few years, when a man in a church service I was attending was giving an announcement. He had to do with some kind of Pro-family program and reaction to support government policies

that were against the traditional family. I'm all in favour of families and "rights," but He declared with great conviction, "Let's take our country back again!"

It is easy to make provocative and uninformed statements like this with no real thought as to what Jesus really tells us through His life and teachings. Since we can so easily revert back to self-interest, we hear something like this and can interpret it through the lens of self.

As I thought further about the logical conclusion to his statement, I realized two misunderstandings that came out of it. The first is, Canada is a "Christian country." We have unin-

tingly transferred the Old Testament theocracy (God is King ruling over Israel's life) to our own Western political and national entities as if they are the same. They are not!

Canada has never been, nor ever will be Christian. It has been influenced by Christian principles and Scriptures, but that's it.

So let's live as followers of Jesus did in the early church

among the majority who are following after other helms. Let's live lives of self-giving, as did Jesus, being "salt" and "light," not a political movement for a return to something that never was.

The second misunderstanding comes from an appeal to self-interest. We want to protect our peace, tranquility, lifestyle, interests, and our prosperity, regardless of others. We must not be willing to follow anyone who offers us freedom to have what we want without any real thought about the consequences and our collective social responsibility, for example Trump.

When we think through where an appeal like this really leads us, then we

see that it tickles our baser nature under the guise of making something "great again." We exist for more than ourselves.

We, as followers of Jesus, need to look in the mirror - which I propose to you is the life and teachings of Jesus - to see ourselves as He reveals us to be and to see what our responsibilities to serve others in our world are. Then we can live this out in our daily lives.

As I said earlier, Jesus calls us to be "salt" and "light" not a political power that forces everyone, kicking and screaming into our way of interpreting life.

Like what I say or not, this is the life to which we, as followers of Jesus, are called.

A deadly step off a moving train for canal worker



FALLEN WORKERS

RILEY FRIEDLIN
Port Colborne Historical & Marine Museum/Special to Postmedia News

While training offers the basics of a task, experience can often be the greatest teacher. However, it takes only one bad decision to leave a person, however well-trained and how-ever experienced, severely injured or dead.

Such was the case for Timothy Harvey Brady, who was hired for the Welland Canal Construction Railway, March 17, 1914.



Welland Canal Construction Railway, March 17, 1914.

States, He moved to Canada about 1903-04, and became a naturalized citizen around 1906-07. On Dec. 4, 1907 in Wiatni-

peg, he married Edith Denninck (also spelled Demerck/Demerick/Demenick/Demenuk). Edith, a Ruthenian, was born in

Austria in January 1886.

They had five children, all born in Manitoba: Richard Harvey (b. Jan. 1909), William Don-

ald (b. March 1911), Annie Mabel (b. July 1914), Martha (b. Jan. 1916), and Evelyn (b. ca. 1920).

The 1911 and 1921 censuses

of Canada show the Bradys living in the district of Dauphin, Man. Timothy worked as a conductor and then a section hand on the CNR railway. By 1921, according to the census Brady was farming in the municipality of Dauphin.

It's not known if farming did not work out, but about April 1925 Brady had, without his family, moved to Niagara in search of employment. Already experienced in railway work, he seems to have had little difficulty in landing a job on the Welland Canal Construction Railway. Despite his rail experience, he would still make a deadly mistake on the job.

On Dec. 12, 1925, while at Ramsey's Bend near Port Colborne, Timothy Brady signaled the engineer of the working rock train to stop. As the driver began to slow down, Timothy hopped off the still moving rail-car. That action - something he may well have done hundreds of times before - had a very different outcome on this occasion.

See **FALLEN** Page 5

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Workers tried frantically to save life of badly injured man

FALLEN from page 4

Brady fell upon landing, and his left leg slipped under the moving train where it was severed by the wheels.

Frank Kushon, a labourer for the company, was only 10 feet away when the accident occurred. He frantically tried to get the attention of Charles L. Brown, the train's engineer. When Brown noticed Kushon waving, he immediately stopped the slow-moving train. Brady was found with his severed leg under the first truck of the second car.

The two men fashioned a makeshift tourniquet out of some rope and tied it around Brady's leg. His badly battered body was then rushed to the Welland Canal emergency hospital in Humberstone where, despite medical treatment by Dr. McKay, one hour after his arrival Brady was pronounced dead from blood loss and shock.

Dr. E.A. Mackenzie, the coroner, called for an inquest into the fatality. It concluded Brady's death had been an accident.

Sunday afternoon, Brady's remains were taken from Sutherland's Undertaking Parlours to St. Patrick Catholic Church, where a service was conducted by Rev. Father Cruise.

Though Brady died alone, separated from his family, the Port Colborne Citizen newspaper reported: "The funeral was attended by a large number of Humberstone citizens including Rev. Dickhout and Councillors Ramey and Ebert besides many workers from the Northern

PROFILE NO. 59

Timothy Harvey Brady, 49

Born: March 1876 (USA)

Died: December 12, 1925 (Section 8, Ramey's

Bend, Humberstone, now Port Colborne)

Cause of Death: Run over by train

Occupation: Brakeman, Northern Construction Company

Construction Co.

"The funeral arrangements were taken care of by Chief of Police Goes in the absence of any relatives of the deceased."

Brady was interred at Mount St. Joseph Cemetery, Port Colborne, far from his widow, Edith, and his young family back in Manitoba.

This article is part of a series remembering the men whose lives were lost in the construction of the Welland Ship Canal.

The Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force is a volunteer group established to design, finance, and build a memorial to recognize workers who were killed during construction of the Welland Ship Canal. For more information about the Memorial, or to contribute to the project, visit www.scatharines.ca/Canal-WorkersMemorial



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Niagara Catholic using free apps system from Google

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Special to Postmedia Network

A multi-device apps system is spreading through Niagara's Catholic schools. "Niagara Catholic has gone Google," education superintendent Ted Farrell told trustees last Tuesday as he introduced Google Apps for Education (GAFE).

It's a free service offered to schools by the internet company.

Following a year of assessment, the board is bringing GAFE into its 49 elementary and eight secondary schools.

The cloud-based platform allows students and teachers to access, exchange, create, collaborate and comment on lessons using computers, tablets, cellphones or other device anytime and anywhere.

Teachers can create online classes that contain course information and assignments, while they use print, sound and video resources.

"The Educational Technology Services Department, in moving to cloud based platforms, has created over 25,000 accounts so that both students and staff can use the Google Apps for Education suite of products," Farrell said in a report to District School Board of Niagara trustees.

Story continued on Page 9

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LOCAL NEWS

Homelessness funding falls short of need

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

The modest increase Niagara will receive to fight homelessness is not enough to address the growing local need, says Regional Chairman Alan Caslin.

The Region learned last week it will get an additional \$620,000 in provincial funding over the next two years through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative, an amount that will not relieve existing area pressures.

"Unfortunately, the announcement falls short of what we really need for our homelessness programs right here in Niagara," Caslin said, adding regional council had made it a priority to see that funding increased.

Niagara will receive \$7.2 million in CHPI funding in 2017-18 and \$7.5 million in 2018-19, compared to \$6.9 million in 2016-17.

The province announced last week it is providing \$632 million to municipalities over two years, including \$45 mil-

lion in new funding, to help families and individuals at risk of homelessness stay in their homes or get the housing they need through various services and prevention programs.

That includes \$14 million in new CHPI funding in Simcoe County. Contributions to other communities have yet to be announced.

There was hope Niagara would see a sizeable boost in funding to more accurately reflect the issue in the area, Caslin said.

"We were hoping that the (funding) formula was going to evolve to something more significant for Niagara, given our changing economic conditions. But quite frankly we didn't see that," he said.

News of the rejiggered funding allocations came as a surprise, he added. Caslin said the Region was told by the province a review of the funding formula was to take place in conjunction with municipal consultation, Niagara included.

That assurance came as recently as August during the

Association of Municipalities Ontario conference in Windsor.

"We were ready to do it. We were fully prepared to participate, but that did not happen," Caslin said.

"We're a little disappointed that we weren't consulted by the time the funding was announced."

Instead, the revised funding approach was the result of recommendations from an expert advisory panel on homelessness, on which Niagara had no representation.

The local demand for services is, on average, "about three times what the avail-

able funding is," Caslin said, calling funds "insufficient to deal with the pressures we're feeling here in Niagara."

The Region, he said, will reach out to St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley for support to help carry the message to Queen's Park that Niagara is underfunded and its allotment should be re-evaluated.

"It is a definite need in Niagara, a demonstrated need in Niagara that we can't ignore," he said, adding "full attention" must be paid to the issue to ensure the appropriate funding is received.

"If we don't want to cut back on the programs in

2017, we're going to have to get more funding."

Cathy Cousins, Niagara Region's director of homelessness services and community engagement, said staff are required to create an investment plan annually that outlines how those provincial dollars will be spent in the areas of emergency shelters, outreach services, prevention programs and supportive housing.

She called it "very rare" for the provincial funding formula to be reviewed and said it seems only a portion was re-evaluated this time around, leaving the major-

ity based on historical allocations.

"The optimism on council was that more of the money would have been reassessed with the expectation that that reassessment would have brought Niagara additional funding."

At risk populations, including youths, Indigenous people and the chronic homelessness, as well as deep core need where more than 50 per cent of income is used for housing, were also factored into the recent provincial decision.

Story continued on Page 26



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Port Colborne calling for tougher medical pot-growing laws

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

The aftershock of an armed robbery at a medical marijuana farm in Port Colborne last month is still rippling through city council chambers.

Last Tuesday night, councillors discussed what could be done to ensure what happened at the Pinecrest Road property in September doesn't happen again.

Ward 4 Coun. Ron Bodner brought a motion forth to urge the federal government to appoint inspectors for medical marijuana growing facilities that were grandfathered under the Medical Marijuana Access Regulations, such as the one on Pinecrest Road, and to crack down harder on properties violating those regulations.

Said Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais: "This is a case of urging them to get tough on the issue. Do it once and do it right."

Bodner presented his motion to council at which time suggestions were made for a couple of amendments before council unanimously agreed on his motion.

A part of the original motion mentioned revoking the licence of the medical marijuana facility alone, but Desmarais wanted to take it a step further.

"Where it says 'no further medical marijuana production is to be permitted,' I would like it to read, 'either at the offending location or by the offending medical marijuana growers,'" she said.

While Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet

brought forward a concern about punishing innocent people who might not be aware their properties are being used for illegal purposes, Desmarais said she found it difficult to believe this property owner had no idea.

People at the Pinecrest Road property were held at gunpoint while several people made off with marijuana plants.

Six people have been arrested, their cases still before the courts, and others are suspected by police of taking part in the crime.

Niagara Regional Police later alleged the greenhouse operation was growing thousands more plants than it is licensed to grow.

Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott said growers and operators know the rules, so if they don't follow them, they need to be gone.

Mayor John Maloney wondered if there were any restrictions that could be put on properties or buildings to prevent these kinds of businesses from moving in.

Planning and development director Dan Aquilina said a report he is working on will address those concerns.

"A report to council will cover everything from the zoning to the regulations themselves and that will be brought back to council," he said.

While it's up to Health Canada to decide what can be done about the Pinecrest establishment, the goal of Port Colborne councillors is to figure out what they can do for their residents.

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LOCAL NEWS

Integrating new tech in schools

FROM PAGE 6

"The move to GAFE ensures that staff and students have access to a free suite of digital products that is accessible regardless of the device used both at school and at home. The GAFE tools include a word processor (Docs), presentation tool (Slides), spreadsheet (Sheets), e-mail account (Gmail) and unlimited file storage (Drive)."

Learning contact Mark Di Tomasso oversees introduction of GAFE, in the board's schools. With him are two digital learning coaches.

The move to GAFE ensures that staff and students have access to a free suite of digital products that is accessible regardless of the device used both at school and at home. The GAFE tools include a word processor (Docs), presentation tool (Slides), spreadsheet (Sheets), e-mail account (Gmail) and unlimited file storage (Drive)."

Ted Farrell,
education superintendent

Ryan Desson and Jeff Maxwell.

They help teachers adopt the apps program as a teaching tool.

With experience, they are creating more ways to make it fit their needs.

During a year of evaluation, he said, students became confident in its use and improved performance while strengthening their ability to share with each other and the teacher.

"What is in it for Goggle?" asked board Chair Rev. Paul

MacNeill

Google is providing the service free.

Parten said part of the motivation is to build skill sets for a possible future workforce. Students would be adept with using Google in their future lives.

St. Catharines trustee Kathy Burtnek said she hoped parents would be involved in the process.

Schools are informing parents through letters or at open houses, Di Tomasso said.

Student trustee Nico Tripodi called GAFE a fantastic resource that enhances learning.

Classmates who are using it, he said, find it changes the way they learn and gives them a way to catch up when they miss a day.



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Pooches bring smiles to patients

MICHELLE ALLENBERG
Postmedia Network

Patients at Welland hospital were all smiles when a group of furry friends paid them a visit.

Niagara Health System's new Pet Therapy Program in partnership with St. John Ambulance has been focusing on boosting the mood of patients with the help of therapy dogs.

The pups have been visiting patients staying in the Woolcott Wing for a few months.

The program has expanded since to the Mental Health Program at the St. Catharines site. Niagara Health System plans to expand the program to other facilities.

Long-term patient Joseph Don Caron has been in hospital for more than a month undergoing treatment for a spinal cord injury. He and his wife Rose Caron said the therapy dogs make a big difference in their day.

"It is just wonderful, to me it has been great ... it



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Rose Caron and her husband Joseph Don Caron enjoy the company of a pooch named Tequila during a visit from Pet Therapy Dogs Thursday at Welland hospital.

helps. People who are in here longer term, than other places, they need that contact with the outside, with animals ... because the animals give them such calm and joy," Rose said during a recent pet visit.

Joseph and his wife have a dog at home who Joseph said he misses. The Carons' daughter will bring the dog for a visit, which helps, but they said it's also nice to have the pet therapy dogs visit.

Carol Girardi, clinical manager at the Woolcott Wing, said she has seen positive changes in the patients since the program started. Some patients used to refuse care or didn't want to get out of bed, but Girardi said once they see the dogs they want to get up.

"Their whole day changes and it is a nice thing to see. We are very big advocates for the pet therapy program," Girardi said.

Girardi has noticed the visits have reduced anxiety and boosted positivity in

patients.

The NHS program will visit the Woolcott Wing about twice a week with a dog. Girardi said the dog visits about 35 patients during each visit.

Michelle Szabo, recreation therapist at the Woolcott Wing, said staff would love to have dogs visit every day if they could find more volunteers with therapy dogs. She said patients are always excited when they know a dog is coming to visit.

Girardi said Szabo spearheaded the program because there was a time when there were no dogs visiting and it was "sad."

Having the therapy creates a positive atmosphere for people.

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LOCAL NEWS

Bell tolls for Sacre Coeur neighbours

ALLAN BENNER
Postmedia Network

It was something neighbours had never heard before.

After years of flawlessly chiming to welcome parishioners to church, the bells of Sacre Coeur played a sour note on a Saturday evening nearly two months ago.

"I enjoy hearing the bells ringing all the time," said Nathan Gelka, who lives a block away from the church on Empire Street in Welland. "But one day, we were sitting at home and all of the there was a bad note — something I've never heard in years."

It happened on July 16 — a day before the monument to the old Sacre-Coeur church was unveiled.

Daniel Roy, a facilities maintenance

worker at the church, was preparing for the unveiling when he heard the bad note from the backyard of his home across the road.

"It was just a bang," he said. "It just sounded sick."

He said parish priest Rev. Julien Beaulieu ran outside and was joined by "people from all over the neighbourhood who were just coming out to see what happened."

"I thought the bell broke or something," Roy said.

They soon learned that the huge clapper in the largest of the church's five bells — a 1,935-kilogram bell named Albert and Mary — had broken in half.

Story continued on Page 23

In The NEWS



Whisky Run Golf Club donated \$3,000 to the Special All-Stars Program. These funds were also raised through the Whisky Run "Challenge the Canal" event at the Canal Days festival. From left: Larry Fisher (Program Organizer) and Luke Nieuwland (Golf Shop Manager, Whisky Run Golf Club).

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Cop guilty of unlawful use of authority

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

A veteran Niagara Regional Police sergeant "on the edge of retirement" has pleaded guilty to three Police Services Act charges after an arrest in downtown St. Catharines went wrong.

Sgt. Scott Elliott, an NRP officer with 30 years' experience, pleaded guilty to two counts of unlawful use of authority and one count of neglect of duty under the Police Services Act.

In an agreed statement of facts, Elliott said he was patrolling on Jan. 25, 2015, at about 12:25 a.m. when he noticed a disturbance outside the L3 nightclub at 6 James St. in St. Catharines.

Earlier in the evening, bouncers had escorted the complainant, a 19-year-old male from Hamilton, and some friends out of the club for being "intoxicated" and "causing problems."

The complainant insisted on returning to the club to get his coat. The bouncers wouldn't let him re-enter the club. They offered to hold onto the jacket and allow him to return the next day to retrieve it.

Other uniform officers noticed the disturbance and were the first to stop and investigate. They told the complainant to leave, and he did.

However, the complainant returned a short time later, again insisting on going inside to retrieve his jacket. At that point, the disturbance spilled onto the sidewalk across the street.

It was at that point Elliott arrived. With the complainant still refusing to leave, Elliott decided to charge him with trespassing.

While making the arrest, Elliott and the complainant slipped on an icy sidewalk. Elliott landed on the complainant, who had his head cut for three stitches and, it was learned later, broke his nose.

The uniform patrol officers took the intoxicated complainant to a Brock University residence, but there wasn't anyone at the residence willing to take responsibility for him. At that point, the officers decided to take him to jail.

The police never did read the complainant his rights.

When the complainant's cut continued to bleed, he was taken from jail to St. Catharines hospital, where his broken nose was also discovered, according to the agreed statement of facts.

The complainant didn't attend the disciplinary hearing.

Insp. Mike Woods, the prosecutor, told the hearing that because Elliott was the arresting officer, it was Elliott's duty to make certain the complainant's rights were read to him.

The trespassing charge was unlawful because the complainant wasn't on L3 property at the time of his arrest, but across the street. That fact also rendered any degree of force used against the complainant as unwarranted.

Leanne McClay, general counsel for the Niagara Region Police Association, represented Elliott. She said her client's performance reviews describe him as a "strong and dependable" officer with a clean disciplinary record.

Story continued on Page 25



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LOCAL NEWS

\$5.65M overrun faced by cop shops

BILL SAWCHUK
Postmedia Network

The Niagara police services board received an early warning that it may end up \$5.65 million over-budget on its new police facilities.

A report by Niagara Region project manager Mislav Koren to the committee in charge of overseeing the new headquarters and Niagara Falls detachment as well as the to-be-built St. Catharines detachment said they are "tracking" to exceed the \$43 million approved for both projects.

The combination headquarters and Falls detachment on Valley Way is all but complete — with some finishing touches and landscaping left.

The St. Catharines detachment will be built in the Niagara Street and Welland Avenue area. It is still in the design phase and hasn't gone out to tender yet, committee chair Ken Gansel cautioned.

“

I've been running my own spreadsheets and, since, 2009, based on two per cent inflation per year, the project should have been funded at \$95,000.”

Ken Gansel, committee chair

Nonetheless, should the estimate prove accurate, the police board would end up at regional council asking for more money.

Story continued on Page 22



MIKE DRABATISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The new Niagara Regional Police headquarters at 5700 Valley Way in Niagara Falls.

2016 Fall Green Scene

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New leader at Family and Children's Services Niagara



JULIE JOGNAK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Anna Bozza is the new executive director at Family and Children's Services Niagara. She started her career with FACS as a front line child protection worker before advancing to supervisor, service director and director of child welfare services. She is photographed in St. Catharines on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.

ALISON LANGLEY Postmedia Network

Family and Children's Services Niagara is under the watch of a new director.

Anna Bozza assumed the role of executive director Oct. 3, replacing Chris Steven, who recently retired.

Born and raised in Thorold, Bozza is a graduate of Denis Morris High School and Brock University.

She knew very early on that she wanted to work with children.

"I volunteered at Shaver Hospital when it was a home for the elderly and volunteered at the child development centre. It was then I knew I wanted to have a career in child welfare."

She received her bachelor of social work at York University and a master's degree at University of Toronto. She is also a graduate of the executive leadership program at the Rotman School of Management at University of Toronto.

Bozza began her career as a front line child protection worker at the Children's

Aid Society in Toronto before returning to Niagara in 1992.

She worked as a front line child protection worker at FACS before advancing to supervisor, service director and director of child welfare services.

During her tenure, she initiated several collaborative approaches to service to benefit children, youth and families served by FACS including the agency's kinship program.

Through that program, children who are unable to live at home may live with family members or close family friends.

Bozza said there's a common misconception that a children's aid society is only involved with families when a child needs to be removed from the family home.

In 97 per cent of cases, she said, children are supported by FACS and remain at home.

The number of children in care declined from 520 to 488 over the past year due to efforts to support families and prevent the need for foster care.

Story continued on Page 21

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	Spacs provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs.	

Executive director ready to get to work

FROM PAGE 20

Approximately 8,000 children were seen due to concerns expressed about their care and safety this past year and 4,700 families received child protection services to support them in the care of their children.

"The agency is well-established and we do really good work and my vision is to continue that work," Bozza said of her new role. "I want people to get to know us. It's really important to continue to enhance the relationship with the community."

Bozza, a resident of St. Catharines, is the agency's first female executive director. She said she's looking forward to working closely with the approximately 400-member staff and team of 185 volunteers.

"My goal is to create an environment where everybody can do the best they can for the kids and families we serve," she said.

She also plans to work to enhance the established relationships between staff and community partners as well as lead the agency with an equal commitment to accountability and fiscal responsibility.

"To me, leadership requires many hats," she said.

"There are times I'm sort of a visionary and people are following and then there are times I'm going to walk beside people and even behind them, empowering and supporting them."

Bozza takes on her new role during Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Many individuals, organizations and even landmarks across Niagara will be "Going Purple" this month to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect.

"The subject of child abuse and neglect remains a difficult one," said Ann Godfrey, FACS' director of communications.

"But overall, the message is a positive one. Abuse and

neglect can be prevented. Help is available. It all starts with awareness."

The provincial Go Purple Day was Oct. 19 and children's aid societies across Ontario urged community members to wear purple.

"Hopefully it will start a conversation that reminds

people that we all have a duty to do something about child abuse and neglect," she said.

"If you have concerns; if you have seen, heard or been told something that concerns you — please call us. We can help."

The Skyline Tower, Pelham Arches and Welland's Main

Street Bridge were lit purple last week and Niagara Falls was bathed in purple light Oct. 1. The Peace Bridge will be lit in purple later this month.

Other activities planned for this month include a chamber of commerce Business After Five event Oct. 19, and FACS Night at the IceDogs hockey

game Oct. 28.

FACS staff will also be speaking at a number of events. For more information or to book a presentation, call 905-937-7731. Presentations are free of charge.

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JULIE JOCSAN/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Anna Bozza is the new executive director at Family and Children's Services Niagara. She started her career with FACS as a front line child protection worker before advancing to supervisor, service director and director of child welfare services. She is photographed in St. Catharines on Tuesday, October 4, 2016.

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In The NEWS



Whisky Run Golf Club donated \$2,000 to the Port Colborne Youth Basketball Program. Funds were raised during the Annual Canal Days Festival at the Whisky Run "Challenge the Canal" event.

Pictured from left to right: Preston Fraser (PC Youth Basketball Player), Ben Walker (PC Youth Basketball Player) and Luke Nieuwland (Golf Shop Manager, Whisky Run Golf Club).

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Backup centre provides help

FROM PAGE 19

Gansel wondered aloud why inflation wasn't worked into the original estimates for the two projects. The final estimate for the headquarters project is \$66,856,109. The estimate for the St. Catharines detachment is more than \$19,330,415, plus costs for a contentious 911 backup centre and site enabling.

"I've been running my own spreadsheets and, since, 2009, based on two per cent inflation per year, the project should have been funded at \$95,000," Gansel said.

Police board chair Bob Gale also said he also couldn't understand why inflation wasn't factored into the cost.

"Based on that, we are actually under-budget," he said. "Inflation should have been in there, but none of us were here then."

One of the sticking points driving up costs is the 911 backup centre that would be part of the St. Catharines detachment.

With the current communication

centre based at the new headquarters in Niagara Falls, the backup centre in St. Catharines would be able to take over in an emergency and keep the communications system up and running.

The question is the cost for something that would sit idle much of the time.

The police board is only willing to allocate \$1 million. Consultants estimate it will cost more than \$2.8 million, Kosen said.

Based on the discussions at recent meetings, a solution to the impasse doesn't appear imminent.

Board member Vaughn Stewart reminded the committee that site enabling costs are the result of regional council's decision to shoehorn the St. Catharines detachment into the downtown core for political reasons, a location that wasn't necessary "from a policing point of view."

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Ring new life into Welland church bell

FROM PAGE 11

Gleka, a machinist, saw the damage and said: "I can fix this."

He recruited another neighbour, Tom Kennedy, to help, and "we used a lot of our rigging techniques" to get the pieces of the 180-kilogram clapper out of the bell, and haul it down through the narrow openings and ladders to the ground.

"It was a feat in itself," he said.

Gleka works at Orlick Industries in Stoney Creek, and the company agreed to allow him to use its facilities to repair the broken clapper. The company's welder also helped out with the repair job.

Two weeks ago, Gleka and

Kennedy returned to the church, while Peter Wangler from PRW Excavating arrived with a crane to lift the massive clapper back up to the belfry so they could install it.

Gleka isn't a member at Sacre Coeur, but that didn't stop him from doing what he could to help.

"I'm doing this for the sense of community," he said. "If a neighbour needs help, if they're a nice enough person I'm going to do whatever I can to help them out."

The century-old bells were manufactured in France, and previously rang in Notre Dame de Grace church in Quebec City until that church closed and the building was reno-

vated into apartments.

But time is taking their toll on them.

Only a few years earlier, another of the bells stopped ringing when the electric motor that runs it had worn out. The community also pitched in then to raise funds to purchase a new motor for that bell.

"We're fortunate," Roy said. He said repairing the clapper would have cost the church well over \$10,000.

If it hadn't been for the neighbours as well as Orlick Industries, "it'd still be broken," Roy said.

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ALLAN BENNER/HELLAND TRIBUNE

Nathan Gelka and Tom Kennedy install a clapper in the large bell at Sacre Coeur church, on Friday October 7, 2016 in Welland, Ont.



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LOCAL NEWS

Officer pleads guilty before judge

FROM PAGE 17

McClay said Elliott "inadvertently" breached the complainant's charter rights.

"It was not done intentionally," she said.

McClay said the complainant was told numerous times to leave and gave every indication he was determined to cross the road and try to re-enter the club.

"If (Elliott) had waited a few minutes, he would never have ended up before a disciplinary tribunal," she said.

McClay added the complainant was only detained "because he couldn't care for himself."

Elliott agreed to perform 24 hours of community service with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Niagara.

Hearing officer Supt. Brett

Flynn accepted the plea and adjourned the hearing for a month to review the joint sentencing recommendation.

The incident took 13 months to resolve. Woods explained he wanted to give the complainant an opportunity to appear at the tribunal and offer his input.

The hearing was adjourned five times.

"We want to make sure we

were diligent in making the offer to him to take part in the process," Woods said. "At this point, we have decided we are going ahead."

Woods said he has spoken with the complainant by phone and he has had some "influence on the submissions."

The Police Services Act is the legislation that governs the conduct of police officers in Ontario. The act,

which is outside the criminal code, was established to ensure police perform their duties with honesty and integrity; treat people with respect; do not abuse their powers and authority and act in a manner that does not discredit or undermine public confidence in the police service.

The complainant launched his complaint about Elliott's conduct

through the Office of the Independent Police Review Director (OIPRD). The office is responsible for receiving, managing and overseeing all public complaints about the police in Ontario.

It was the OIPRD who directed the NRP to proceed with an internal disciplinary hearing.

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Emergency energy fund in high demand in recent years

FROM PAGE 7

With the increase falling short of what Niagara needs, major areas of concern include the emergency energy fund, which helps families and individuals at risk of having their hydro disconnected, and housing stability plan, which provides first and last month's rent or a rental deposit to help the homeless become housed.

While funding has seen little movement, demand for services in Niagara continues to grow.

The emergency energy fund saw 1,502 unique households seeking help in 2015, compared to 1,197 in 2014.

Eligible recipients last year asked for an average of \$487 to help with hydro costs, compared to \$456 in 2015.

Niagara's eight emergency shelters funded by the Region served 1,876 unique households in 2014, including 216 children, and 1,615 unique households in 2015, including 241 children.

That does not include people who returned to shelters on multiple occasions.

Through the housing stability plan, 6,748 cheques were issued in 2015 with an average value of \$474 — a number that has been driven up by rising rental costs and a decrease in the supply of rental housing.

As a result of the demand outweighing available funds, "the pressure we're taking forward currently into 2017 budget conversations is about \$475,000," Cousins said. "We'll have to work through the budget process with council to

understand what that means."

Bradley said last Wednesday he is happy to work with the Region to bring the message to Queen's Park that more funding and further consultation is needed to ensure Niagara's needs are met.

He said it's likely that many communities in Ontario went without consultation on the issue and feel their funding allotments are not enough to prevent homelessness in their respective areas.

"The needs are just extremely great out there right across the province," Bradley said.

"The government is trying to find as much money as possible."

In an e-mail to Postmedia Network, Ministry of Housing spokesman Geoffroi Bouchard said historic program spending continues to be used as it "best reflects the existing service system to address the needs of those who are homeless."

"We are allocating these new funds with an eye to preventing those most at risk from becoming homeless, and also maintaining existing allocations to continue to provide predictable support to communities that have come to rely on CHPI as an important tool with which to combat homelessness across Ontario."

Asked about CHPI funding allotments for other Ontario communities, Bouchard said announcements will be made in the coming weeks.

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MARLENE FRETTE/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Leanne James, Salvation Army mobile outreach worker, makes a stop in the community response unit to hand out food to those in need.

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